

From: Pam Pinto [mailto:ppinto@snet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:55 PM
To: Giannaros, Elizabeth
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB5530

Greetings,

My name is Pamela Pinto of 606 Walnut Hill Road in Thomaston, 860-283-5195.

I will not be able to attend the hearing on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 in Room 1D, but wanted to share my testimony in support of HB5530.

I was not given the choice to dissect the grasshopper, frog or pig when I was in school. I remember the feeling of wanting to run out of class but was afraid of getting a failing grade.

This class experience helped me to decide to become vegetarian. So for the past 20 years I have supported animal rights. My children are also aware of animal rights and are given choices regarding animal issues.

Our family has chosen to learn biology with the Digital Frog Curriculum. Digital Frog is a wonderful alternative to live dissection.

· Students at all educational levels have objections to cutting up animals for dissection. Forcing these students to dissect dead animals can interfere with their ability to learn the required information, cause them psychological trauma, and even discourage them from pursuing careers in science.

· Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies.

· Modern alternatives to dissection like computer programs, DVDs, and models have been shown to teach anatomy and biology as well as or better than dissection.

- Alternatives to dissection save teachers and schools time and money because they last for years and do not need to be re-ordered for each class.

- Fifteen states—including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York—have laws or policies allowing students to opt out of dissection.

I hope Connecticut will join the ranks of her neighboring states and pass Dissection Law Legislation.

Thank you,

Pamela Pinto